

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

Verses & Notes September 12, 2007

Ephesians 2: 1-10 (Part Three)

“Are You Dead or Alive”

Ephesians, chapter 2

- 1: And you he made alive,
when you were dead through the trespasses and sins
- 2: in which you once walked,
following the course of this world,
following the prince of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work
in the sons of disobedience.
- 3: Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,
following the desires of body and mind,
and so we were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of mankind.
- 4: But God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us,
- 5: even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ
(by grace you have been saved),
- 6: and raised us up with him,
and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- 7: that in the coming ages
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- 8: For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God --
- 9: not because of works, lest any man should boast.
- 10: For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.

Introduction:

- Are you dead or alive? Last week, we began our discussion of this topic, which to many might seem quite absurd. “If I’m hearing this program, then dummy I’m obviously alive!” But are you? Even though you can pinch yourself or kick the person sitting next to you to make sure they’re alive, yet, there are people walking around today, in all walks of life, who presume they are alive, yet they are dead. And there are many who claim they are “hearing” but sadly aren’t, and you can tell by the way they walk. Sound confusing? Well, I’m addressing the question of how are you spiritually. This is part of what we will discuss today on **Deep In Scripture**.

Discussion:

- Welcome....website ... Phone numbers ... special: CHJournal on Salvation

- In our study of Ephesians, we have completed chapter 1, which consists basically of a greeting and then two long sentences of praise to God for what He done by grace for newly baptized Gentile believers.
- Chapter 2 is a continuation of St. Paul's thoughts, beginning with 1:13-14, and this context is essential to understanding the meaning of Ch. 2:
 - "In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."*
 - In vs. 15-23, St. Paul expounds on how he prays for them, on what he hopes they will experience as they grow in grace, as a result of being sealed in baptism.
 - In 2:1, he picks up again with what they received in baptism & this context is crucial! All that is said in the following verses is in the context of baptism, and NOT merely a faith alone reception of grace!

We are looking at this section under the question: "Are you dead or alive?" & under three headings:

- (1) What were we before Baptism: dead (2:1-3);
- (2) What has God done for us in baptism: made alive (2:1, 4-7);
- (3) How did we receive this: grace (2:8-10)

I: What we were before Baptism: dead (2:1-3);

*"...you were dead
through the trespasses and sins
in which you once walked,
following the course of this world,
following the prince of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work
in the sons of disobedience.
Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,
following the desires of body and mind,
and so we were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of mankind."*

(1) "we all" ... Rom 3:9-18, 23

(2) "Dead"

Mt. 8:22 *But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the **dead** to bury their own **dead**."*

Lk 9:60 *But he said to him, "Leave the **dead** to bury their own **dead**; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

Mt 23:27 *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of **dead** men's bones and all uncleanness."*

Jn 5:25 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the **dead** will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."*

Rom 6:11 *So you also must consider yourselves **dead** to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

Col 2:12-13 *"and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the **dead**. And you, who were **dead** in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses..."*

Rev 3:1 *"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works; you have the name of being alive, and you are **dead**.'*

(3) "trespasses and sins"

(4) "once walked"

Exod.18

*[20] and you shall teach them the statutes and the decisions, and make them know the way in which they must **walk** and what they must do.*

Lev.26

*[3] "If you **walk** in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them,*

*[12] And I will **walk** among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people.*

*[23] "And if by this discipline you are not turned to me, but **walk** contrary to me,*

*[24] then I also will **walk** contrary to you, and I myself will smite you sevenfold for your sins.*

Ps.1

*[1] Blessed is the man who **walks** not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;*

Jer.11

*[8] Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but every one **walked** in the stubbornness of his evil heart. Therefore I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not."*

John.8

*[12] Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not **walk** in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Acts.9

*[31] So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Sama'ria had peace and was built up; and **walking** in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit it was multiplied.*

Rom.6

*[4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might **walk** in newness of life.*

Gal.5

*[16] But I say, **walk** by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

*[25] If we live by the Spirit, let us also **walk** by the Spirit.*

Eph.5

*[2] And **walk** in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

*[8] for once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; **walk** as children of light*

*[15] Look carefully then how you **walk**, not as unwise men but as wise,*

1John.1

*[6] If we say we have fellowship with him while we **walk** in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth;*

*[7] but if we **walk** in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

(5) the "world, the flesh, and the devil"

(6) "passions ... and ... desires"

(7) "by nature"

416 *By his sin Adam, as the first man, lost the original holiness and justice he had received from God, not only for himself but for all human beings.*

417 *Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendants human nature wounded by their own first sin and hence deprived of original holiness and justice; this deprivation is called "original sin".*

418 *As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers, subject to ignorance, suffering and the domination of death, and inclined to sin (this inclination is called "concupiscence").*

1250 *Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism. The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.*

II: What God did for us in baptism: made us alive (2:1, 4-7);

1: And you he made alive, when you were dead..."

4: But God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us,
5: even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ
(by grace you have been saved),
6: and raised us up with him,
and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7: that in the coming ages
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

(1) Vss 1:13-14, "heard...have believed...were sealed"

Rom 10:

[8] But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach);
[9] because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
[10] For man **believes** with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.
[11] The scripture says, "No one who **believes** in him will be put to shame."
[12] For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him.
[13] For, "every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."
[14] But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not **believed**? And how are they to **hear** without a preacher?
[15] And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!"
[16] But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has **believed** what he has **heard** from us?"
[17] So faith comes from what is **heard**, and what is **heard** comes by the preaching of Christ.

(2) "made alive"

John 1:12-13 "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

John 3: 3-6 "Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

(3) "together with Christ...raised us up with him...made us sit with him"

(4) **Why?! Because** of our goodness? Because we believed? No, because of God's mercy and love, even "when we were dead through our trespasses."

(5) **God's other motive:** vs. 7 ... 1 Tim 2:4